

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COLUMBIA DIVISION

United States of America,	)	CRIMINAL NO. 3:05-90-CMC
	)	
v.	)	<b>OPINION and ORDER</b>
	)	
Jonathan Lamont Grimes,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	

This matter is before the court on Defendant’s letter “hoping to enlist your helping hand in correcting my sentence which is flawed in two (2) separate ways[.]” ECF No. 254. Defendant contends that his sentence is not valid based upon an error in his prior criminal record and that he has a conviction that no longer qualifies as a predicate offense for application of career offender status after *Descamps v. United States*, 570 U.S. \_\_\_, 133 S. Ct. 2276 (2013).

Defendant’s letter, construed as a motion, is in reality a motion for relief under 28 U.S. C. § 2255. Defendant’s motion raises claims relating to “the validity of the underlying criminal judgment and do not suggest that [Defendant] was denied a fair opportunity to seek relief through § 2255.” *United States v. Winestock*, 340 F.3d 200, 208 (4th Cir. 2003).

On October 10, 2008, Defendant filed a motion for relief in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The Government was granted summary judgment on January 22, 2009. Defendant’s failure to secure permission to file a second or successive motion in the appropriate court of appeals prior to the filing of the motion in the district court is fatal to the outcome of any action on the motion in this court. The Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-132, 110 Stat. 1214 (1996), placed specific restrictions on second or successive motions under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Prior to filing a second or successive motion under § 2255, Defendant must obtain certification by a panel of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals allowing him to file a second or successive motion. As provided in 28 U.S.C. § 2244, “[b]efore a second or successive application permitted by this section is filed in the district court, the applicant shall move in the appropriate

court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider the application.” 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A). *See also* Rule 9 of the Rules Governing 2255 Proceedings (“Before presenting a second or successive motion, the moving party must obtain an order from the appropriate court of appeals authorizing the district court to consider the motion . . .”). This he has not done.

The requirement of petitioning a court of appeals (in this instance, the Fourth Circuit) for permission and securing permission to file a second or successive motion is jurisdictional. Therefore, Defendant’s failure to secure permission in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals prior to filing this § 2255 motion is fatal to any action in this court. This motion is dismissed as this court is without jurisdiction to consider it.

#### CERTIFICATE OF APPEALABILITY

The governing law provides that:

(c)(2) A certificate of appealability may issue . . . only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.

(c)(3) The certificate of appealability . . . shall indicate which specific issue or issues satisfy the showing required by paragraph (2).

28 U.S.C. § 2253(c). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find this court’s assessment of his constitutional claims is debatable or wrong and that any dispositive procedural ruling by the district court is likewise debatable. *See Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003); *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); *Rose v. Lee*, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir. 2001). In this case, the legal standard for the issuance of a certificate of appealability has not been met. Therefore, a certificate of appealability is **denied**.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/ Cameron McGowan Currie  
CAMERON MCGOWAN CURRIE  
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Columbia, South Carolina  
June 10, 2014